



In late December 2011, staff from OVAE's Division of Adult Education and Literacy (DAEL) visited Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. DAEL staff received a presentation on the school's evidence-based model from Chief Academic Officer Allison Kokkoros, and Principal Ryan Monroe. The school has served over 50,000 students during 42 years of operation. It was chartered in 1998, and earned accreditation in 2005 through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Each year, the school serves more than 2,000 immigrant adult students representing 75–80 countries. Class options range from basic English literacy and life skills for successful integration into American life, to career-level English and professional certificate courses in technology and culinary arts. The school offers classes in the morning, afternoon, and evening to accommodate students' differing work and family schedules. DAEL staff members toured the school, observed class sessions, and ate lunch with students and staff. Inspired by the work of the school, one OVAE staffer has requested to begin volunteering there. For more information, please access [Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School](http://www.carlosrosario.org/).

U.S. Department of Education Publishes RFI for Promising and Practical Strategies to Increase Postsecondary Success

The secretary of education has published a Request for Information ([RFI](#)) inviting institutions of higher education (IHEs), non-profit organizations, state systems of higher education, adult education providers, researchers, and faculty and staff to provide the Department with information about promising and practical strategies, programs and practices that have improved the rates of postsecondary success, transfer and graduation. While responses to this RFI may be submitted at any time, to be considered in the **first round** of reviews, responses **should be submitted by April 30, 2012**. The Department is interested in strategies emphasizing the quality of what students learn, and timely or accelerated attainment of postsecondary degrees or certificates. These include industry-recognized credentials that lead to improved learning and employment outcomes. The secretary is particularly interested in successful innovations that IHEs and states could replicate to help reach the president's goal of increasing the number of Americans who earn postsecondary degrees and certificates. The secretary will establish the Postsecondary Completion Website as an online resource on which the responses to the RFI will be posted for sharing, commenting, and discussing. Interested parties are encouraged to review the full [Promising and Practical Strategies to Increase Postsecondary Success RFI](#). Additional information on the president's [blueprint](#) for keeping college affordable and the Department's [college completion and affordability efforts](#) is also available.

National Career and Technical Research Center Solicitation Release

The Department has released a new requirement to establish a center to carry out scientifically based research and evaluation, and to conduct dissemination and training activities consistent with the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV)*. By legislative mandate, the Department intends to award a contract to an institution of higher education, a public or private nonprofit organization or agency, or a consortium of these entities to establish this new national research center for career and technical education. Interested parties may view the solicitation online <https://www.fbo.gov/>. **Proposals are due on March 23, 2012.**